

**U.S. District Court  
District of Columbia (Washington, DC)  
CIVIL DOCKET FOR CASE #: 1:19-cv-01726-TNM**

CENTER FOR INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING et al v.  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Assigned to: Judge Trevor N. McFadden  
Cause: 05:552 Freedom of Information Act

Date Filed: 06/13/2019  
Jury Demand: None  
Nature of Suit: 895 Freedom of  
Information Act  
Jurisdiction: Federal Question

**Plaintiff**

**CENTER FOR INVESTIGATIVE  
REPORTING**

represented by **John D. Clopper**  
CLOPPER LAW PC  
43 West 43rd Street  
Suite 95  
New York, NY 10036  
(347) 752-7757  
Email: [jclopper@clopperlaw.com](mailto:jclopper@clopperlaw.com)  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

**Plaintiff**

**MATTHEW SMITH**

represented by **John D. Clopper**  
(See above for address)  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

V.

**Defendant**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

represented by **Darrell C. Valdez**  
U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR THE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
555 Fourth Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20530  
(202) 252-2507  
Email: [darrell.valdez@usdoj.gov](mailto:darrell.valdez@usdoj.gov)  
**LEAD ATTORNEY**  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

Date Filed	#	Docket Text
06/13/2019	<u>1</u>	COMPLAINT against DEPARTMENT OF STATE ( Filing fee \$ 400 receipt number 0090-6186635) filed by CENTER FOR INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING, Matthew Smith. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Civil Cover Sheet, # <u>2</u> Summons, # <u>3</u> Exhibit Exhibit 1 to 3 to complaint)(Clopper, John) (Attachment 1 replaced on 6/14/2019) (zef, ). (Entered: 06/13/2019)
06/13/2019	<u>2</u>	LCvR 26.1 CERTIFICATE OF DISCLOSURE of Corporate Affiliations and Financial Interests by CENTER FOR INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING (Clopper, John) (Main Document 2 replaced on 6/14/2019) (zef, ). (Entered: 06/13/2019)
06/14/2019		Case Assigned to Judge Trevor N. McFadden. (zef, ) (Entered: 06/14/2019)
06/14/2019	<u>3</u>	SUMMONS (1) Issued Electronically as to U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Notice and Consent)(zef, ) (Entered: 06/14/2019)
06/14/2019	<u>4</u>	STANDING ORDER Establishing Procedures for Cases Before Judge Trevor N. McFadden. The parties are hereby ORDERED to read and comply with the directives in the attached standing order. Signed by Judge Trevor N. McFadden on 06/14/2019. (lctnm2) (Entered: 06/14/2019)

06/26/2019	<u>5</u>	AFFIDAVIT of Mailing of Summons and Complaint to U.S. Department of State by CENTER FOR INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING, MATTHEW SMITH. (Clopper, John) (Entered: 06/26/2019)
06/26/2019	<u>6</u>	AFFIDAVIT of Mailing of Summons and Complaint to U.S. Attorney General by CENTER FOR INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING, MATTHEW SMITH. (Clopper, John) (Entered: 06/26/2019)
06/26/2019	<u>7</u>	AFFIDAVIT of Mailing of Summons and Complaint to U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia by CENTER FOR INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING, MATTHEW SMITH. (Clopper, John) (Entered: 06/26/2019)
06/26/2019	8	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed as to the United States Attorney. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney on 6/18/2019. (Answer due for ALL FEDERAL DEFENDANTS by 7/18/2019.) RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed on United States Attorney General. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney General 6/18/2019. RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE served on 6/20/2019. (See docket entries <u>5</u> <u>6</u> and <u>7</u> to view document). (tth) (Entered: 06/28/2019)
07/18/2019	9	NOTICE of Appearance by Darrell C. Valdez on behalf of U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Valdez, Darrell) (Entered: 07/18/2019)
07/18/2019	<u>10</u>	ANSWER to Complaint by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE.(Valdez, Darrell) (Entered: 07/18/2019)
07/19/2019		MINUTE ORDER. Before the Court are a Complaint and an Answer in this FOIA case. It is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall meet and confer and file a Joint Status Report proposing a schedule for proceeding in this matter. The schedule should address, among other things, the status of Plaintiff's FOIA request, the anticipated number of documents responsive to Plaintiff's FOIA request, the anticipated date(s) for release of the documents requested by Plaintiff, whether a motion for an Open America stay is likely in this case, whether a Vaughn index will be required in this case, and a briefing schedule for dispositive motions, if required. The parties shall file the schedule on or before August 30, 2019. Signed by Judge Trevor N. McFadden on 7/19/2019. (lctnm2) (Entered: 07/19/2019)
07/22/2019		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 8/30/2019. (hmc) (Entered: 07/22/2019)
08/30/2019	<u>11</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Valdez, Darrell) (Entered: 08/30/2019)
09/04/2019		MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the parties <u>11</u> Joint Status Report, it is hereby order that the parties shall submit a further Joint Status Report on or before October 4, 2019 and every 60 days thereafter. The status report should advise the Court about the Defendants processing of the Plaintiffs FOIA request and propose how the parties wish to proceed in this matter. Signed by Judge Trevor N. McFadden on 09/04/2019. (lctnm2) (Entered: 09/04/2019)
09/05/2019		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 10/4/2019. (hmc) (Entered: 09/05/2019)
10/04/2019	<u>12</u>	Joint MOTION for Extension of Time to File <i>Joint Status Repor</i> by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Valdez, Darrell) (Entered: 10/04/2019)
10/07/2019		MINUTE ORDER granting the <u>12</u> Joint Motion for Extension of Time to File Joint Status Report. The parties shall file their next Joint Status Report on or before October 11, 2019. SO ORDERED. Signed by Judge Trevor N. McFadden on 10/7/2019 nunc pro tunc to 10/4/2019. (lctnm2) (Entered: 10/07/2019)
10/07/2019		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 10/11/2019. (hmc) (Entered: 10/07/2019)
10/11/2019	<u>13</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Valdez, Darrell) (Entered: 10/11/2019)

10/15/2019		MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of the <u>13</u> Joint Status Report, it is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall file a further Joint Status Report on or before November 4, 2019. Signed by Judge Trevor N. McFadden on 10/15/2019. (lctnm2) (Entered: 10/15/2019)
10/15/2019		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 11/4/2019. (hmc) (Entered: 10/15/2019)
11/04/2019	<u>14</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Valdez, Darrell) (Entered: 11/04/2019)